

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCI-06 AEC-11 DRC-01 EA-11 SAJ-01 NIC-01

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R 081547Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4185

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

IAEA VIENNA 1048

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, IT

SUBJECT: NPT - GOI RATIFICATION DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BONN 5538

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF OTHER SUBJECTS, FONOFF DISARMAMENT CHIEF FONTANA GIUSTI MENTIONED THAT HE EXPECTED VERIFICATION AGREEMENT TO BE APPROVED BY SENATE SHORTLY AFTER EASTER. IF THIS PREDICTION PROVES ACCURATE, AGREEMENT WOULD THEN BE PASSED TO APPROPRIATE CHAMBER COMMITTEE TO BEGIN RATIFICATION PROCESS IN THAT BODY. FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY CHAMBER (FONTANA DID NOT ESTIMATE WHEN THIS MIGHT BE), AGREEMENT WOULD BE SENT TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE THUS COMPLETING PROCESS. FONTANA NOTED THAT GOI TIMETABLE STILL CALLED FOR NPT TO BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES FOR RATIFICATION ONLY AFTER ACTION COMPLETED ON VERIFICATION AGREEMENT.

2. MEANWHILE PRESS (L'UNITA, APRIL 6) REPORTS THAT SEVERAL COMMUNIST DEPUTIES HAVE PRESENTED FORMAL INTERROGATION TO
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FOREIGN MINISTER SEEKING EXPLANATION CONCERNING "THE FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE NPT TO PARLIAMENT FOR RATIFICATION." INTERROGA-

TION NOTES THAT NPT WAS SIGNED BY NUMEROUS COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE INCLUDING PRINCIPAL NUCLEAR POWERS AND, MOST RECENTLY, FRG LAST FEBRUARY. ACCORDING TO PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES, MORO IS OBLIGED TO RESPOND TO INTERROGATIONS, IN WRITTEN OR ORAL FORM, ALTHOUGH TIMING FOR RESPONSE IS FLEXIBLE. AS HAS BEEN REPORTED, FONOFF OFFICIALS HAD ANTICIPATED THAT INTERPELLATION OF THIS SORT MIGHT ARISE BUT NO CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT IT WOULD CREATE SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO FORCE GOVERNMENT TO ALTER OR EXPEDITE ITS PREFERRED RATIFICATION TIMETABLE.

3. EMBASSY FEELS (ROME 3535) THAT, TO BE EFFECTIVE, ANY DEMARCHE MADE BY US IN SUPPORT OF FRG EFFORTS TO MOVE ITALIANS ALONG RATIFICATION PATH SHOULD BE MADE AT LEAST AT FONOFF POLITICAL DEIRECTOR GENERAL LEVEL FOLLOWING ANALOGOUS APPROACH BY WEST GERMAN EMBASSY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SUPPORT FRG WORKING LEVEL INQUIRY ENVISAGED REFTTEL. VOLPE

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